

**FACILITATING INVERSE MULTIPLEXING OVER ASYNCHRONOUS
TRANSFER MODE VIA COMMUNICATION LINKS HAVING DISPARATE DATA
TRANSMISSION RATES**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A method for facilitating inverse multiplexing over asynchronous transfer mode is disclosed herein. The method includes receiving a stream of sequentially aligned ATM cells via an originating end point logical communication link. A sequence identifier is associated with each one of the ATM cells for creating sequence-identified ATM cells. The sequence-identified ATM cells are forwarded to a destination endpoint logical communication link in a distributed manner over a plurality of IM communication links. A first one of said IM communication links has disparate data transmission rates in at least one data transmission direction with respect to a second one of the IM communication links.

10